



## ***South Carolina Department of Agriculture*** **Hugh E. Weathers, Commissioner**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- March 28, 2017**

### **The Steeplechase Comes to Charleston**

**CHARLESTON**– South Carolina has a rich heritage of horse racing, and the SC Department of Agriculture is helping to promote the sport on a statewide basis.

In March, the Aiken Trials, the Aiken Steeplechase and the Elloree Trials brought some of the area's finest young horses out to test their speed. The state's biggest race, The Carolina Cup, will bring some 60,000 fans out on April 1 to enjoy horse racing at the state-owned Springdale Racecourse in Camden.

A new race meet, The Steeplechase of Charleston at Stono Ferry Racetrack, will join the National Steeplechase Association's 2017 spring racing schedule on Saturday, April 8. With the first of six races scheduled to start at 1 p.m., this family-friendly event offers a day of fun and excitement. The \$90,000 in purses is divided among two flat races for young horses and four steeplechase races over National hurdles.

Steeplechase visitors can enjoy Vendor Village for shopping, food trucks such as King of Pops, Chopped-n-Topped, Ben and Jerry's, along with various tailgating areas. Fans will have the opportunity to purchase upgraded tickets to the VIP Spike Chalet located on the start/finish line. This is one of the best seats in the house and includes food and beverage.

Tickets start at \$40, with children under 12 admitted free. Limited infield preferred parking, conveniently located inside the track, can be purchased in advance for \$40, and offsite general parking can be purchased day-of at the Stables at Stono Ferry Plantation for \$10, cash only. For advance ticket and parking purchases, or for more information, visit [steeplechaseofcharleston.com](http://steeplechaseofcharleston.com).

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